

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8257

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1914

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MR MO AG SS UN

SUBJECT: RYDBECK'S EMISSARY ROLE

REF: ALGIERS 904

1. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY ALGIERS' OBSERVATION (PARA 4 REFTEL) THAT QUESTION OF WHAT RYDBECK DID AND DID NOT SAY DURING VISIT TO ALGERIA WAS IMPORTANT TO GOM. RYDBECK'S RHETORICAL "YES" IN REACTION TO QUESTION ABOUT SPAIN REMAINING AN ADMINISTERING POWER FOR SAHARA WAS NO DOUBT HIGHLY UNPALATABLE TO GOM. UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CATCH UP WITH A STORY UNLESS A CORRECTION IS MADE ON THE SPOT BEFORE THE WIRE SERVICES HAVE FILED. RYDBECK'S ONLY CHANCE TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT WAS WHEN HE MET WITH PRESS IN ALGIERS. THIS HE DID NOT DO, AND UP TO NOW HAS NOT CHOSEN TO COMMENT ON THE MISINTERPRETATION OF HIS REMARKS. FURTHERMORE, BOTH SEMI-OFFICIAL AND OPPOSITION PRESS HERE ARE ON RECORD WITH HIGHLY CRITICAL ARTICLES ABOUT RYDBECK'S ACTIVITIES WHILE IN ALGERIA, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON

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FACT THAT HE MET IN ALGIERS AND TINDOUF WITH POLISARIO

REPRESENTATIVES. THESE MEETINGS HAD EVEN MORE NEGATIVE IMPACT THAN RYDBECK'S COMMENT ABOUT REMAINING ROLE FOR SPAIN.

2. BECAUSE OF NUANCED MAURITANIAN POSITION ON RECEIVING RYDBECK (OUTLINED NOUAKCHOTT 818), WE WONDER WHETHER DOOR MAY STILL BE SLIGHTLY AJAR FOR RYDBECK VISIT TO MOROCCO IF WALDHEIM MAKES APPROPRIATE DECLARATION FOLLOWING APRIL 6 GENEVA CONSULTATION WITH RYDBECK.

3. PRIOR TO RYDBECK'S LATEST VISIT TO THE AREA, MOROCCANS HAD ALREADY CONSIDERED HIM SUSPECT BECAUSE OF ATTITUDE AS SWEDISH PERMREP IN UNGA SAHARA VOTING AND DURING HIS FIRST MISSION TO SAHARA IN FEBRUARY. HE THEREFORE HAS HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE FUTURE AS AN EMISSARY AS FAR AS MOROCCANS ARE CONCERNED. EVEN IF HE WERE TO BE RECEIVED IN MOROCCO, GOM COULD BE EXPECTED TO GIVE HIM COOL RECEPTION AT BEST AND IT VERY DOUBTFUL HE WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING CONSTRUCTIVE. WE WOULD JUDGE THAT IF WALDHEIM IS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN UPHILL BATTLE OF HAVING ANY POSITIVE DIPLOMATIC IMPACT ON GOM, HE WOULD BE BEST ADVISED TO FIND ANOTHER EMISSARY WHO MIGHT HAVE MORE CREDIBILITY WITH MOROCCANS.

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